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NASHVILLE – Wage information on more than **670** occupations is now available through the Department of Labor & Workforce Development's Research and Statistics Section, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development Michael E. Magill announced today.

“This is one of the most comprehensive studies available, listing more occupations with more hourly wages than ever before,” Magill reported. “More than 25,000 employers participated in the survey, which is very important to the quality and quantity of the information available.”

According to Magill, the Occupational Wage reports have been broken down to provide data for 11 sub-state areas, including four non-metropolitan as well as seven metropolitan areas. State and metropolitan data are available now at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/areas.htm>. Non-metropolitan data are expected to be available later this spring.

“The addition of information by area is especially important for planning purposes in our local communities and for individuals involved in career planning,” Magill added. “For example, the survey shows that executive secretaries and administrative assistants in the Nashville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) on average earn \$13.96 an hour, compared to the state average of \$13.08 an hour. In Chattanooga, accountants earn an average of \$19.11, which is close to the state average of \$19.15. Team assemblers are earning an average of \$10.29 per hour in Memphis, compared to the state rate average of \$10.13. Wage data are some of the most frequently requested data items because of their importance to both employers and job seekers.”

In addition, the newly released data are based on the new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for the first time. This new classification was implemented to better identify recent changes in the job market, including greater use of computer technology

in the workplace, and to allow for better tracking of trends. With this new classification system, more uniform data within various federal and state agencies will be produced.

The report is based on three years of survey data. Wage information was collected over the entire range of occupations, from managers to laborers, with a variety of educational and training requirements. The attached chart lists seven of the more common jobs with the average wage paid in each of the metropolitan areas. Published data available for each occupation include number of employees, as well as mean and median wages.

To access these data, visit the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Web site at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/areas.htm>. Links are provided to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employers were randomly selected from the unemployment insurance program files to participate in the survey. Individual employer responses are confidential. Tennessee's final response rate was the 14th in the nation, with responses from more than 77 percent of employers surveyed.

Collecting occupational employment and wage data is an ongoing process. While wage data for the most recent survey are being released collection for the 2000 survey round began October 2000 and will continue until mid-August of this year.

Occupational data are presently available on a statewide and metropolitan area basis. For wage information, write to the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Statistics – Occupational Data Unit, Davy Crockett Tower, 11th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37245-1000, call (615) 741-3639, or check the Internet site at <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/wages/areas.htm>.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral de Tennessee es un patrono que ofrece igualdad de empleo. Ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para individuos con impedimentos.

HOURLY¹ WAGE RATES 1999 DATA
FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS AREAS IN TENNESSEE

Area and Area Code	Janitors and Cleaners (37-2011)	Secretaries except Legal Medical or Executive (43-6014)	Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants (43-6011)	Customer Service Representatives (43-4051)	Team Assemblers (51-2092)	Registered Nurses (29-1111)	Accountants and Auditor (13-2011)
CHATTANOOGA MSA (1560)	7.57	10.58	\$13.15	\$10.90	\$10.98	18.99	19.11
KNOXVILLE MSA (3840)	7.70	10.04	\$12.19	\$10.69	\$10.86	17.89	20.70
MEMPHIS MSA (4920)	7.29	10.39	\$13.29	\$9.66	\$10.29	18.99	18.39
NASHVILLE MSA (5360)	7.70	11.15	\$13.96	\$10.93	\$10.21	19.74	19.45
JOHNSON CITY, KINGSPORT & BRISTOL MSA (3660)	8.21	9.13	\$11.68	\$10.43	\$9.52	18.91	16.25
CLARKSVILLE MSA (1660)	8.03	9.37	\$10.56	\$10.26	\$14.46	18.82	17.47
JACKSON MSA (3580)	7.44	8.39	\$13.03	\$10.24	\$8.35	18.36	18.51
STATEWIDE	7.64	9.99	\$13.08	\$10.42	\$10.13	18.78	19.15

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment Security Division,
Research and Statistics Section

¹ Mean wage rates.